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DATE: March 16, 2004

FILE: 10872.0332.NPUS00

TO: Examiner Scott Bushey, Group Art Unit 1724

COMPANY: United States Patent and Trademark Office

872-9306

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FROM: Mark L. Gleason

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Serial No. 10/065,638


Response to office action dated February 10.

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Rhea et al

Serial No.: 10/065,638

Confirmation No.: 5983

Filed: November 5, 2002

For: HUMIDIFIER BOTTLE LATCH CARRY
HANDLE

Group Art Unit: 1724

Examiner: Bushey

Atty. Dkt. No.: 10872.0332.NPUS00
(ESPD:332)

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED FEBRUARY 10, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is submitted as a response to the office action dated February 10, 2004. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to deduct the one-month extension fee, and any other fees required for any reason relating to this paper, from Howrey Simon Arnold & White Deposit Account No. 01-2508, Order No. 10872.0332.NPUS00.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION

This paper responds to the office action mailed February, 10, 2004 ("the office action"). The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in light of the following remarks.

Sections 1-5 of the office action required restriction of the claims to one of three claim groups:

- I. Claims 1-15
- II. Claims 16-17
- III. Claims 18-20

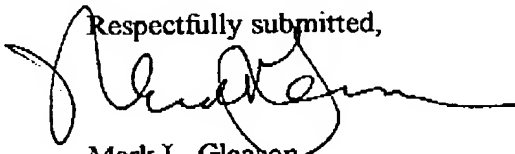
In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-15.

Section 6 of the office action alleged that the application contains claims directed to three patentably distinct species (Species A-C), and further required election of a single species for prosecution on the merits.

In response to the election requirement, Applicants elect Species A. The office action noted that claims 1 and 18 appear to be generic, and further states that applicant is entitled to consideration of claims to additional species that are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 952.474.3701 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark L. Gleason
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Attorney for Applicants

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Date:

3/16/04